

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method of packaging medications on demand, the method comprising:
grouping medications into dosage groups, wherein the dosage groups contain at
5 least one element of medication and each element of medication in a dosage group should
be taken by a patient at substantially the same time as other elements of medication in the
same dosage group;
placing each dosage group of medication into a separate compartment in a
package;
- 10 covering the compartments of the package and labeling compartments with patient
customized information indicating a time for which the associated medications within the
compartment should be taken by a patient, wherein covering the compartments provides a
cover such that removal of a dosage group provides an indication to a patient that the
dosage group has been taken by the patient.
- 15 2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the packaging comprises one of a
blister pack and a foil pack.
3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein labeling compartments further
comprises providing instructions about use of at least one of the medications.
4. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
20 including a food item in at least one compartment wherein the food item is to be
taken with the dosage group contained in the at least one compartment.

5. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
transmitting an order for medication to a pharmacy via a network.

6. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
producing revised instructions to affix to the packaging.

5 7. The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the revised instructions comprise a
revised dosage schedule.

8. A computer program product in a computer readable media for use in a data
processing system for controlling a medication packager, the computer program product
comprising:
10 first instructions for instructing a the medication packager to group medications
into dosage groups, wherein the dosage groups contain at least one element of medication
and each element of medication in a dosage group should be taken by a patient at
substantially the same time as other elements of medication in the same dosage group;
second instructions for instructing the mediation packager to place each dosage
15 group of medication into a separate compartment in a package;
third instructions for instructing the medication packager to cover the
compartments of the package and labeling compartments with patient customized
information indicating a time for which the associated medications within the
compartment should be taken by a patient, wherein covering the compartments provides a
20 cover such that removal of a dosage group provides an indication to a patient that the
dosage group has been taken by the patient.

9. The computer program product as recited in claim 8, wherein the packaging comprises one of a blister pack and a foil pack.

10. The computer program product as recited in claim 8, wherein labeling compartments further comprises fourth instructions for instructing the medication packager to provide instructions about use of at least one of the medications.

11. The computer program product as recited in claim 8, further comprising:
fourth instructions for instructing the medication packager to include a food item
in at least one compartment wherein the food item is to be taken with the dosage group
contained in the at least one compartment.

10 12. The computer program product as recited in claim 8, further comprising:
fourth instructions for receiving an order for medication via a network.

13. The computer program product as recited in claim 8, further comprising:
fourth instructions for instructing the medication packager to produce revised
instructions to affix to the packaging.

15 14. The computer program product as recited in claim 13, wherein the revised
instructions comprise a revised dosage schedule.

15. A system of packaging medications on demand, the system comprising:
a medication grouper which groups medications into dosage groups, wherein the
dosage groups contain at least one element of medication and each element of medication
in a dosage group should be taken by a patient at substantially the same time as other

elements of medication in the same dosage group;

5 a placement unit which places each dosage group of medication into a separate compartment in a package;

a package sealer which covers the compartments of the package; and

10 a labeler which labels compartments with patient customized information indicating a time for which the associated medications within the compartment should be taken by a patient, wherein covering the compartments provides a cover such that removal of a dosage group provides an indication to a patient that the dosage group has been taken by the patient.

15 16. The system as recited in claim 15, wherein the packaging comprises one of a blister pack and a foil pack.

17. The system as recited in claim 15, wherein the labeler provides instructions about use of at least one of the medications.

20 18. The system as recited in claim 15, wherein the placement unit includes a food item in at least one compartment wherein the food item is to be taken with the dosage group contained in the at least one compartment.

19. The system as recited in claim 15, further comprising:
a receiver for receiving an order for medication via a network.

20 20. The system as recited in claim 15, wherein the labeler produces revised instructions to affix to the packaging.

21. The system as recited in claim 20, wherein the revised instructions comprise a revised dosage schedule.